



School of
Social Policy,
Social Work
and Social
Justice

10
Years
ANNIVERSARY

SCHOOL SEMINAR SERIES 2025-26



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<https://www.ucd.ie/socialpolicyworkjustice/research/>

ABSTRACT

The lecture introduces a framework called the coloniality of sexual violence. Building on work by Fanon (1952), Davis (1981), Spivak (1988), Lugones (2007, 2008), Spillers (1987), and Segato (2016), this helps us understand more deeply how ideas about sexual danger are mobilised for strategic ends. The weaponisation of women's rights has been discussed in previous scholarship: for instance, on colonial feminism (Ahmed 1992), imperial feminism (Amos and Parmar 1984), and femonationalism (Farris 2017, see also Bhattacharyya 2008). However, this has not explored the specific rhetorical and political economy attached to imputations of sexual violence, in which racialised ideas about sexuality and borders intertwine across scales from body to community to nation (Phipps 2025). The coloniality of sexual violence blends sex exceptionalism (the idea that sexual violence is worse than other harms - see Gruber 2022) with sexual exceptionalism (the idea that sexual violence enters the national body from the 'outside' - see Puar 2007) in a variety of ways. In each blend, states of exception are created that allow populations to be vilified, geographically contained, economically excluded, expelled or even exterminated, apparently in the service of tackling sexual violence.

LOCATION



A201, UCD Hanna-Sheehy Skeffington Building, Belfield Campus

DATE & TIME



Sept. 10th, 2025,
16:00 - 17:00

Registration details:

